

And it doesn't have to be this way. People don't have to be in an environment that is constantly under abuse. You can leave, whether that is today, whether that is tomorrow, whether that is decades from now.

Today, I am very proud. Years ago, my mother left that abusive environment. Just last year, she was able to get her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso, UTEP. It was amazing for her to go back and get her education.

Today, she lives with me. She, along with my wife, Angel, helps raise our children. And today, she is in an environment where she is loved.

This month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we can't lose sight of that. If you are in a violent situation, you, too, can get out. You, too, can change the direction of your life, and your children can go off and be very successful because we live in the greatest country on Earth. Whether it is today, tomorrow, or a decade from now, please leave your abusive environment and get back to a place of happiness and love.

□ 1030

#### STRIKETOBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, from this podium, and on the streets of Chicago, I have spoken out quite a bit about essential workers.

They work every day to keep our country going, often risking their lives, their families, and they deserve respect and dignity on the job.

But today, I want to talk about the courage that it takes not to go to work and to go out on strike for better working conditions.

As we speak, thousands of workers are on strike; from the nurses and healthcare workers to the people who make cereal, tractors, and whiskey. And tens of thousands more have taken strike votes and are ready to join them if they can't reach agreements with their employers.

It is a strike wave, and we are calling it "Striketober."

And I stand today in solidarity with these workers who are fighting for safer working conditions, a decent living wage, and the ability to retire with dignity.

Just in the past few weeks in my city of Chicago, I stood with Nabisco workers from the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union, auto mechanics from the International Association of Machinists, and employees at the Art Institute of Chicago who are fighting to join a union, AFSCME.

Only days later, the workers at a local tortilla plant in my own neighborhood, El Milagro, walked out protesting an unsafe workplace, unfair wages, and sexual harassment at the company's plants.

In recent years, teachers, nurses, county employees, nursing home workers, and even the symphony orchestra performers in our city went on strike.

They aren't just striking for themselves, they fought to provide community resources in our schools, improve patient care for our seniors, and create art for the public.

These workers and their struggles are the newest chapters of Chicago's historic role as the center of our country's labor movement.

International Workers' Day—celebrated around the world on May 1—commemorates the Haymarket protests in Chicago in 1886, which led to the 8-hour workday and ended child labor.

The Pullman strike, brutally suppressed by our own government, is commemorated every year on Labor Day.

This is my own history, too.

I came to Chicago as an immigrant from Mexico, and my parents' jobs and benefits as Teamsters—and my own work as a member of the Retail Workers Union, as a member of the Teamsters, the United Legal Workers affiliated with the UAW—helped make me who I am today.

So when these workers walk out on strike, they walk out for all of us.

Safety at work, dignity in retirement, a living wage, these are important issues for everyone.

There is a picket line chant that says, "If we can't get it, shut it down." And it is time that working-class people did just that.

Striketober was a long time coming. The Federal minimum wage has been at \$7.25 for over a decade, but millionaires got 62 percent richer during the pandemic.

A vial of insulin costs \$6 to make, but pharmaceutical companies sell it for as much as \$275.

Rent, childcare, and medical bills go up and up, and pundits won't stop complaining about wage inflation.

So workers across the country are standing up to say: Enough is enough. And they are standing up for us.

So we have got to support these workers on the picket lines any way we can.

In Congress, this means supporting proworker legislation, like the Protecting the Right to Organize Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, which guarantees workplace rights.

It means protecting frontline workers, from nurses to CTA bus drivers, to Instacart shoppers.

It means supporting workers at the bargaining table and on the picket line because when workers fight, we all win.

Si, se puede. Yes, we can.

#### RECOGNIZING RAYMOND ANDREW SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary sacrifice by a resident of Brooklyn, New York.

Private First Class Raymond Andrew Smith was 18 years old when he made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, in the Korean war.

Growing up, Raymond and his sister Helen experienced a difficult childhood in foster care, forcing them to take on responsibilities far beyond their years. And despite the challenges he faced, at the age of 14 Raymond joined the Navy.

Once Raymond's age was discovered by his superiors, the Navy granted him an honorable discharge, but that wouldn't stop Raymond's drive for service. Four years later, Raymond enlisted in the United States Army, and after 6 months, he was shipped off to fight in the Korean war.

The Korean war began in June of 1950 when General Douglas MacArthur, alongside South Korean and U.N. forces made significant progress into the north with hopes of uniting the two countries again.

However, Communist China under Mao Zedong had other plans, and sent roughly 100,000 troops to the Chosin Reservoir to counter progress made by America and our allies, leading to the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

With the 7th Infantry Division, Raymond fought in this battle, a battle many military experts and scholars consider to be one of the most brutal conflicts in modern history due to the sheer fierceness of our opponents and severe weather elements.

For 17 days, the Battle of Chosin Reservoir raged on. In that timeframe, it is estimated that the United States suffered 18,000 casualties, while the Chinese suffered upward of 50,000 casualties, 30,000 just from the freezing cold alone. During the battle, temperatures were said to have dropped to a chilling negative 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Medical supplies froze solid, rendering them useless, weapons seized and failed to function, and digging foxholes was nearly impossible without the use of machinery. At negative 35 degrees Fahrenheit, the human body sets into hypothermic shock in only 5 to 7 minutes.

Private First Class Raymond Smith was one of the first to make contact with the enemy. Raymond and his peers were vastly outnumbered, and while they fought valiantly, he was sadly reported missing on December 2, 1950, presumed to be dead.

On July 27, 2018, following a summit between then-President Donald Trump and North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-un, North Korea returned 55 boxes that contained the remains of American servicemembers killed during the Korean war.

And on March 25, 2021, Raymond's family received closure when his remains were finally identified and accounted for after 71 unbearable years for his family. Raymond's remains

were returned to New York City, where his sister Helen, her children, a full U.S. military honor guard, and the Port Authority Police were there to welcome him home.

I am taking this time today to ensure Raymond's memory lives on and his sacrifices will not be forgotten. Currently, there are more than 81,600 Americans that remain missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, the Gulf wars, and other conflicts. Let this give us hope that we can return them all home.

I urge the administration and my colleagues to work toward the return of all prisoners of war and a full accounting and the repatriation of our fallen servicemembers' remains.

#### ALL AMERICANS DESERVE SAFE, CLEAN, STABLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. STRICKLAND) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, all Americans, regardless of age, ZIP Code, or income, deserve to live in a safe, clean, and stable home they can afford. This is exactly what a healthy, just, and secure community relies on. It ensures that people are able to meet their basic needs. When over 145,000 Social Security beneficiaries in my district, the 10th Congressional District of Washington State—representing nearly 21 percent of the population—only have 100 to \$200 to spare for groceries, utilities, and other basic expenses after paying their rent or mortgage, we know that prosperity is not being shared equally, nor equitably.

When our servicemembers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord simply cannot find homes off post or on post for their families, due to lack of supply or the cost of housing, we must clearly improve our mission to support our Nation's heroes.

These are just a few of the stories that thousands of Washington State residents and families are experiencing, just like millions of Americans across the country. And we know the driving factor behind this housing crisis is lack of supply. We don't have enough housing, and we aren't building it fast enough to meet the demand. And some of the housing that we do have is not fit for human habitation.

According to Up for Growth, an organization that advocates for more housing, their report on housing underproduction from 2010 to 2017 in Washington State identifies some startling data points: For every one household that moved into my district, there were .64 housing units produced in Pierce County, .76 in Thurston County, and .62 housing units in Mason County.

So this means that for every family that moved into our district, that we were producing two-thirds to three-quarters of the housing that we needed

to accommodate them. This also means that for over 7 years the population increased and demand far outpaced supply, resulting in this crunch or lack of inventory that so many families are feeling right now.

What's more, there remains a shortage of nearly 160,000 homes for extremely low-income renters, and nearly half a million renters in Washington State are rent-burdened, which means that they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing alone.

Now housing experts have told us that we need a once-in-a-generation solution to our housing supply shortage. That time is now. Now is our opportunity to build smarter, build better, and to do it inclusively.

We have solutions on the table, and it is well past time to use them. We can build to higher-density inside transit corridors, leveraging existing infrastructure. That is why I was so proud to help introduce the bipartisan Build More Housing Near Transit Act with Representative SCOTT PETERS to make sure that when we are investing \$2.3 billion each year for large-scale transit projects, we are ensuring that local land use policies, which are often the biggest barrier to increasing housing supply, will encourage sensible development around these major infrastructure investments. For so long we have built housing infrastructure around automobiles and that is a relic of the past; now we must invest in transit to utilize good and smart land use policies.

For our military servicemembers and their families, we can find solutions in our National Defense Authorization Act provisions, which passed out of the House in a bipartisan manner just weeks ago. I offered one provision, which will direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to answer one question: How long are wait times for housing located on military installations in competitive housing markets? And we want them to produce a strategy to address this demand for housing.

It is simply unacceptable that servicemembers and their families must wait more than 6 months to be assigned housing on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. I urge all of my colleagues to support this inclusion of several reports that will address the issue, including a report on how and the extent to which commanders of military installations are connecting military families with local nonprofit organizations and government entities that provide services to the military, including assistance with finding housing.

And importantly, we must pass both our bipartisan infrastructure proposal and the Build Back Better Act and specifically deploy the Unlocking Possibilities Program.

This competitive grant program through HUD will be used to support cities and towns to design and implement policies that eliminate exclu-

sionary zoning and artificial barriers to adding more housing. I urge all of my colleagues to work to retain this important program in our build back better proposal.

Being securely housed is a fundamental human right regardless of your political affiliation. The cost of continuing to ignore our lack of supply is far too great, especially when the tools we need are at our disposal. Let's use them, and let's show our constituents that we can and will build back better. To do otherwise is irresponsible.

□ 1045

#### THE BABY FOLD—2021 ANGELS IN ADOPTION HONOREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Baby Fold in Normal, Illinois, for being chosen as a 2021 Angels in Adoption honoree. I nominated The Baby Fold this year because of their passion for adoption support and services throughout my Congressional district.

Since 1902, The Baby Fold has been transforming the lives of children and families by focusing on the Christian values of love, hope, and healing. They currently serve over 1,200 individuals each year across 28 different counties in Central Illinois.

The Baby Fold focuses on improving the lives of children and families by building safe environments through adoption services, foster care to adoption, community services, and more. The Baby Fold puts children first so that they can be blessed with the stability and love that they deserve.

Every day, I am grateful for adoption organizations that bring families together, like The Baby Fold. I applaud The Baby Fold and their volunteers for their strong dedication to children and families throughout Illinois.

TAYLORVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taylorville Junior High School regarding their selection for the National Blue Ribbon from the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon is awarded to schools for their academic achievement or their progress in closing the achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Mrs. Jessica Miller, the principal at the time of the nomination, and assistant principal, Mrs. Jennifer Wise, led several building initiatives that improved academic performance and emotional growth by investing in professional development, creating a community of learners, and meeting the emotional needs of students.

The national recognition is also the result of the collective efforts of the building administration, teachers, support staff, and the entire Taylorville